

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing alkyl/aryl chloroformates of formula R-OCOCl wherein R is selected from the group consisting of linear alkyl, branched alkyl, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl and substituted aryl, the process comprising:

adding a solution of alcohol of formula R-OH wherein R is selected from the group consisting of linear alkyl, branched alkyl, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl and substituted aryl, in an organic solvent, to a mixture of triphosgene, a catalyst, a base and an organic solvent, at a temperature in the range of 0°C to ambient for a time period in the range of 1 to 48 hours to obtain a solid wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of inorganic method carbonate and bicarbonate,

separating the solid by filtration and removing the solvent from filtrate to obtain the alkyl/aryl chloroformate formula R-OCOCl, and

purifying the alkyl/aryl chloroformate.

2. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of an organic tertiary amine and an organic amide.

3. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 21 wherein the organic tertiary amine catalyst comprises triethylamine.

4. (Currently Amended) A process as ~~claimed~~ in claim 21 wherein the organic amide ~~catalyst~~ comprises dimethyl formamide.

5. Cancelled.

6. (Currently Amended) A process as ~~claimed~~ in claim 51 wherein the inorganic metal carbonate is selected from the group consisting of sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate and calcium carbonate.

7. (Currently Amended) A process as ~~claimed~~ in claim 51 wherein the bicarbonate is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate and potassium bicarbonate.

8. (Currently Amended) A process as ~~claimed~~ in claim 1 wherein the alcohol is selected from the group consisting of benzyl alcohol, n-octanol, 2-ethylcyclohexan-1-ol, n-butanol and phenol.

9. (Currently Amended) A process as ~~claimed~~ in claim 1 wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of acetone, acetonitrile, tetrahydrofuran, hydrocarbons selected from hexane, cyclohexane, benzene, toluene, xylene, chlorinated hydrocarbons selected from dichloromethane, dichloroethane, and preferably toluene or hexane.

10. (Currently Amended) A process as ~~claimed~~ in claim 1 wherein the solvent for the process and the solvent for the alcohol are the same.